

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action of August 28, 2006. This request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

35 U.S.C. 112 “a handy type” Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Examiner suggested that “a handy type electric motor” could be a brand name but was not understood unless the use of a copyright symbol was used.

In response to Examiner’s suggestion, Applicant did not mean to use the brand name but rather intended to describe a small electric motor by labeling as “a handy type electric motor”. Therefore, Claim 1 was amended to read “an electric motor”. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Regarding Ballew

Claim 1 was rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP61-24121 in view of Ballow (US 3,905,118).

1. Applicant amends Claim 1 to overcome the rejection and clarify more the scope of the claim. This amendment is made within the scope of the application as originally filed and does not change the subject matter. No new matter has been added. The withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendment and the following remarks.

2. In the cited reference JP61-24121, as shown in Fig.2, Fig.3 (a) and 3 (b), contact plates 16 are attached to a front end portion of a holder 9, and the apparatus grinds a cutting edge of cutter links 2 with a rotating grinder 11 while the holder 9 is held by hand so that the contact plates 16 are placed on a chain. Also, a guideline 23 is provided on the contact plates 16 so as to adjust the orientation of the contact plates 16 in alignment with the chain.

3. Ballew describes “a flat elongated reference plate 10 has depending lug portions 12 located on the bottom adjacent the ends of the reference plate 10” in column 1, lines 41-43, and in the following lines 43-45, “[T]he lug 12 are spaced from each other and form a chain receiving channel between them”. Further, according to Fig.1 and Fig.4, inside sidewall faces of lug the 12 form an X-shape as seen in plan view, and the width of the lug 12 is narrow.

4. Comparing the present invention with JP 61-24121 in terms of structure, they are similar in the following point. In the present invention, provided on and forward of an electric motor is a guide body 8 which is placed on a saw chain in use, and also in JP 61-24121, provided are contact plates 16 which is placed on a chain.

5. However, they are different in the following point. In the present invention, the guide body 8 has, formed therein, wall faces 81a and 81d (81b and 81c) being pressed against a guide bar of a chainsaw. On the other hand, in JP61-24121, no such wall faces or similar portions are formed at the contact plates 16 or around them. As mentioned above, the present invention and JP 61-24121 are structurally different in the existence of the wall faces being pressed against the guide bar.

6. The existence of the wall faces being pressed against the guide bar of the chainsaw has a great effect on the stabilization of the posture of the front portion of the apparatus held with one hand during the grinding work of a cutting blade of a saw chain.

In the case of the grinding work using the apparatus of JP 61-24121 having no wall faces being pressed against a guide bar of a chainsaw, the posture of the front portion of the apparatus is stabilized in a manner that the contacts plates 16 are placed on a chain and are pressed from above.

However, the width of a chain for chainsaws is so narrow that stabilization of the contact plates 16 is difficult. Especially, in JP 61-24121, at the contacts plates 16 or around them, no wall faces being pressed against a guide bar of a chainsaw are provided, and therefore, merely, the contact plates 16 are pressed against a chain from above so as to stabilize the posture of the apparatus. Accordingly, it is highly expected that the contact plates 16 will fluctuate up and down or move from its position on the chain or laterally tilt.

A guideline 23 shown in Fig.1 of JP 61-24121 merely serves as a marker to adjust the contact plates 16 in alignment with a grinding angle.

As described above, although the present invention has an effect that the posture of the front portion of the sharpener is stabilized in a manner that the wall faces 81a and 81c (or 81b and 81d) provided on rear portion of the guide body are pressed against the guide bar, such an effect can not be obtained from JP 61-24121. Thus, there is a substantial difference between JP 61-24121 and the present invention in terms of the structure and the effect.

Further, it would not easy to reach the technology whereby the wall faces 81a and 81c (or 81b and 81d) are pressed against a guide bar by referring to JP 61-24121.

7. Comparing the structure of the present invention with that of Ballew (US 3,905,118), they are different in the following point. In the present invention, a guide body 8 has, formed therein, an upper plate face 80 and wall faces 81a and 81c (or 81b and 81d) being pressed against a guide bar of a chainsaw, which have a substantial X-shape as seen in plan view, extending in two directions, and which are fit into and along an upper portion of the saw chain in alignment with a sharpening angle of either a left or right cutter blade of the saw chain, and a grinding tool 7 is rotated by an electric motor 3.

On the other hand, in Ballew, as shown in Fig.1, although an X-shaped guide portion is formed like the present invention, the width of a reference plate 10 is much narrower than that of a guide body 8 of the present invention. Furthermore, the inside wall faces of the lug 12 is formed to fit along the side faces of a chain, and a round fill is manually operated backward and forward.

Thus, the present invention and Ballew is substantially different in terms of structure.

In the present invention, the length in X-directions of the upper plate face 80 having an X-shape laterally extends more than that of the bottom surface 10b of the reference plate 10 of Ballew, and this difference has a great effect on the stabilization of the posture of the front portion of the sharpener whereby the posture is prevented from wobbling.

Further, in Ballew, as shown from Fig.1, the reference plate 10 is placed on a chain while the inside faces of the lug 12 are fit along the side face of the chain in use. However, the narrow width and the low height of the chain make it difficult to stabilize the reference plate 10.

On the other hand, in the present invention, the guide body 8 is placed on a saw chain while the wall faces 81a and 81d (81b and 81c) provided on the rear portion of the guide body 8 are pressed against the guide bar of the chainsaw.

Thus, the wall faces 81a and 81d (81b and 81c) are pressed against the guide bar, not against the side face of the chain, enabling to support the front portion of the sharpener with not only the chain but also the guide bar. Therefore, the posture of the front portion of the sharpener can be stabilized very well.

Moreover, in Ballew, the cutting link 18 is filed by operating a round file

24 backward and forward, requiring a reference plate 10 to be pressed with one hand so as to be prevented from moving backward and forward during the filing work. On the other hand, in the present invention, the guide body 8 does not need to be held by hand, and therefore, the chainsaw can be prevented from falling down or wobbling with only one hand.

As described above, the present invention and Ballew are different in terms of configuration in that the width of an X-shaped guide body 8 and that of a reference plate 10 are substantially different. Also, in the present invention, the posture of the front portion of the sharpener is stabilized in a manner that the guide body 8 extending in X directions and the wall faces 81a and 81d (81b and 81c) press the front portion of the sharpener against the chain and the guide bar to support, enabling high-precision grinding. Such an excellent effect can not be obtained from Ballew. Moreover, it would not easy to reach the above-mentioned structure and effect. by the teaching of Ballew.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is submitted that the amended Claim 1 defines the invention over the prior art and notice to this effect is respectfully solicited. Applicant has either complied with all Examiner recommendations or has effectively argued against the Examiner's objections/rejections and believes that all currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added.

Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claimed language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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